

February 2012



iowacollaboration
foryouthdevelopment

Mark Your Calendar

DHR Open House

February 16

Event showcasing the Department of Human Rights' services to all constituents, partners and legislators.

Time: 7:30am–8:30pm

Location: Lucas State Building,
Department of Human Rights

Questions or comments, email
Danielle.Plogmann@iowa.gov

Students Taking Charge

March 2

High school youth health workshop organized by Dept. of Education (Team Nutrition), Dept. of Public Health, SIYAC, ISU Extension and Walmart.

Time: 9:30am–2:30pm

Location: Ankeny, DMACC, FFA
Enrichment Center

Registration: by February 10

Questions or comments, email
Carrie.Scheidel@iowa.gov

Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth

March 8

Informative event for educators, parents, students and community leaders addressing social justice and equality for LGBTQ youth.

Time: 7:30am–5:00pm

Location: Drake University,
Olmsted Center

Registration: by March 5

Questions or comments, email
Nate@iowasafeschools.org

Risky Business

May 1

Training conference for youth and adults addressing critical youth issues and empowering them to make positive choices.

Time: 8:00am–5:00pm

Location: Iowa State University

Registration: by April 20

Questions or comments, go to
<http://www.yss.ames.ia.us/>

Want your event in the next newsletter? Contact [Renée Mallo](mailto:Renée.Mallo) with the date, location, and a brief description.

ICYD INSIDER

Youth Development News

Current Efforts to Curb Underage Drinking

The [Mason City Youth Task Force](#) has initiated a program called “**Underage Drinking, Adult Consequences**” to address their area’s elevated rates of binge drinking among youth under the age of 21. Among the Cerro Gordo County high school juniors who took the [2010 Iowa Youth Survey](#), 26% reported binge drinking within 30 days prior to taking the survey compared to just 24% of high school juniors throughout the state.

Grant money secured by the Mason City Youth Task Force has made it possible for local law enforcement to implement “rounds of increased enforcement” targeting local bars, gas stations, restaurants and other businesses that sell alcohol. The initiative also attends to underage drinking parties. [KIMT news](#) has a news article and video addressing this initiative on its website. Future rounds of increased enforcement will correlate with points of time when higher rates of underage drinking are anticipated, including high school proms and graduations.

A bill in the Iowa Legislature, [HF 396](#), shares similar goals with this initiative. This bill would make it possible for adults hosting underage drinking on their property to be issued a \$500.00 fine. Language in the Iowa Code would also be updated to include “consumption” of alcohol as illegal for persons under 21 years of age in addition to “possession”. [The Daily Iowan](#) website provides an article regarding this bill.

Iowa Kids Count Report

The [Child and Family Policy Center](#) has released the [2010 Iowa Kids Count report](#). The report highlights both encouraging and unfavorable trends among our state’s youth spanning the prior decade.

From 2000 until 2010 the number of Iowa [teens becoming pregnant and giving birth](#) decreased by 16.3%. During this time period a 22.99% decrease in [infant mortality](#) and 38% decrease in [child deaths](#) were also observed. [Math proficiency](#) among the state’s eighth graders has increased by 6.7%, with more significant improvements seen in Lucas, Clarke and Allamakee counties.

The report notes a disappointing 33.8% increase in confirmed [child abuse and neglect](#) throughout the decade in Iowa. A 44.5% increase in [child poverty](#) was reported and has been attributed to the country’s economic circumstances. Similarly, the number of children [eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches](#) went up by 39.3%. A news article addressing the results of the Iowa Kids Count Survey can be found on the [Radio Iowa](#) website.

To submit an article or resource, email [Renée Mallo](mailto:Renée.Mallo) with an internet link and description.

State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council Update

The Council’s current undertakings include evaluation of the proposal for education reform by Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds. Education reform should be non-partisan, and the council is giving their best efforts to advocate for the initiatives to once again give Iowa students a world-class education. SIYAC’s upcoming initiatives will be a new campaign entitled “Accept, Assist, and Achieve: Building Stronger Communities.” This campaign will operate off of the basic premise that it takes a village to raise a child. If we make stronger communities, we ensure that youth in Iowa have the resources to become successful adults and contributors to our society.

If you would like further information about SIYAC and its activities, you can contact SIYAC@iowa.gov. —Khayree Fitten, Council Chair

<http://www.icyd.iowa.gov/>